

September 2005 Issue No. 141

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## **Loan Interests**

### Funding Sources Workshop

Jerry Wilson

If you have questions about how to get funding for a project, join representatives of the Water and Wastewater Funding Sources Committee at one of three locations this fall.

Presenters will share updates on funding availability and will answer questions. As time permits after each session, representatives can meet with attendees one-on-one to discuss specific projects. See the attached workshop announcement for details.

Workshop dates are:

September 26 Rice Lake
September 28 Plover
October 6 Richland Center

Representatives from many of the agencies listed in the workshops announcement will be participating in these workshops.

If you have questions regarding the workshops, contact Pat Sullivan at patricia.sullivan@dnr.state.wi.us or 608-266-5742, or Jerry Wilson at gerald.wilson@dnr.state.wi.us or 608-264-8986. You do not have to preregister. φ

# ITA and PERF Deadline

Ken Hollenzer

Avoid the Rush! Enjoy the holiday season! Send ITAs and PERFs in soon!

Even though December 31, 2005, is the postmark deadline for the Notice of Intent to Apply form (ITA) and Priority Evaluation and Ranking Form (PERF) for State Fiscal Year 2007 projects, we encourage you to send the forms in much earlier. In fact, did you know you can send these forms in anytime during the year for any Environmental Improvement Fund (EIF) program—the Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP), Safe Drinking Water Loan Program (SDWLP), or Land Recycling Loan Program (LRLP)? Why not start filling them out now and beat the end of the year rush? Your municipality and your consulting engineer probably have most of the information needed to complete the forms already.

I combined two or more projects on one ITA and PERF in the past. Is that okay?

You must submit a **separate** ITA and PERF on or before December 31 **for each project** you want funded by the CWFP, SDWLP, or LRLP between July 1, 2006, and June 30, 2007.

Each year we see a few forms that try to combine several projects into one ITA and one PERF. Sometimes these projects have separate construction start and end dates, and we need to separate

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them. It's also important to separate the forms because we need to assign a separate priority score to each project through the PERF process. Each project solves a particular problem or has a particular solution to a problem. Each unique problem or solution can result in a different priority score.

I submitted an ITA last year and didn't receive funding. How long is the ITA valid?

ITAs are valid for one state fiscal year. If your municipality submits an ITA by December 31 for a project but does not receive funding during the following fiscal year, you must submit another ITA to keep the project current with the EIF. Again, if your municipality is planning to apply for funds for more than one project, you must submit a separate ITA for each project.

I submitted a PERF in the past. Do I need to fill out another PERF?

Please review the scope of your project carefully. If the scope has not changed and you already submitted a PERF for your project in a previous year, please do not submit another PERF. We only require one PERF for each project. If the scope of your project has changed in any way, you need to submit a new PERF so we can re-evaluate the priority score for the project.

Can I get information and forms from DNR's web site?

To print ITAs and PERFs for all EIF programs, visit our website at: http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/caer/cfa/EL/Forms/forms.html. While you're on the website, take a look around. There's information available to you on the site about most aspects of the EIF programs. You may request paper copies of the forms by contacting Deb Olson at 608-266-5889 or debra.olson@dnr.state.wi.us.

If you have questions about ITAs or PERFs, contact the specialist for the appropriate program:

For CWFP ITAs and PERFs, Ken Hollenzer at (608) 266-7542 or kenneth.hollenzer@dnr.state.wi.us.

For LRLP ITAs and PERFs, Maureen Hubeler at (608) 266-0849 or maureen.hubeler@dnr.state.wi.us.

For SDWLP ITAs and PERFs, Jeanne Cargill at (608) 267-7587 or jeanne.cargill@dnr.state.wi.us. φ



## State Budget Finalized

Bob Ramharter

With the signature of the Governor, the 2005-2007 state budget, which includes the Environmental Improvement Fund budget, was finalized.

How did we fare? The bottom line is, pretty well. We didn't get everything we requested, but we're cautiously optimistic that we'll be able to achieve our funding goals.

Our budget requests are comprised of two components: a request for General Obligation (GO) borrowing authority and a request for Present Value Subsidy (PV) authority. PV authority is a fiscal control that limits the present value cost of our financial assistance. PV is calculated based on assumed future interest rates. Following is a summary of the budget status of each of our three loan programs.

#### Clean Water Fund Program (CWFP)

We requested \$9.6 million in additional GO borrowing authority and \$136.6 million in PV authority. These amounts were calculated based on an expected \$685.9 million in wastewater projects over the biennium. The final budget provides \$0 of additional GO authority and \$109.6 million of PV.

### Calendar of Events

(See announcement for more information about Funding Sources Workshops)

NOTE: CHANGED DATE! September 26, 2005 Funding Sources Workshop 6:00 PM Registration City Hall, Rice Lake

NOTE: CHANGED DATE! September 28, 2005 Funding Sources Workshop 8:30 AM Registration 350 Water Way WRWA, Plover

October 3, 2005
Postmark deadline
LRLP Applications

October 6, 2005 Funding Sources Workshop 12:00 PM Registration Public Library, Richland Center

December 31, 2005
ITA & PERF deadline for CWFP,
SDWLP, and LRLP

What does this mean? If interest rates rise from current levels, it is possible that we would not have sufficient funding to meet the projected \$685.9 million of demand. If, instead, interest rates remain low throughout the biennium, the authorizations within the budget should be sufficient to meet the projected demand. Even if interest rates do rise, it's also possible that the entire \$685.9 million of demand may not materialize and that we would still be able to fund all of the projects that come in for loans.

We'll monitor the status of funding for this program carefully as the biennium progresses. If it appears we'll have a significant funding shortfall, there is a process by which we can go back to the Legislature to request additional authorizations. It's impossible to predict whether such a request would be successful. We'll be certain to let you know the future status of our funding situation via this newsletter.



#### Safe Drinking Water Loan Program

We requested \$6.1 million in additional GO authority and \$13.5 million in PV. These amounts were based on an expected \$63.8 million in loans over the biennium. The final budget provides \$6.1 million in additional GO authority and \$12.8 million in PV. This creates a somewhat unusual situation wherein we may have the cash to lend, but may not have sufficient spending authority (PV). We are hopeful that continued low interest rates and/or an administrative solution to this problem will enable us to lend the entire \$63.8 million.

#### **Land Recycling Loan Program**

There is no GO authority associated with this program. We requested \$3.3

million in PV authority, which would be sufficient to support \$8.5 million in loans. The final budget provides \$2.7 million in PV. Again, we are hopeful that continued low interest rates and/or an administrative solution to this problem will enable us to lend the entire \$3.3 million.  $\varphi$ 

#### Did you know?

In addition to administering the Clean Water Fund Program, the Land Recycling Program, and the Safe Drinking Water Loan Program, DNR's Bureau of Community Financial Assistance administers 27 grant programs.

Local units of government, nonprofit organizations and others can obtain grants for activities such as: ATV trails, aquatic invasive species control, forest fire protection, lake protection and classification, municipal flood control, recreational trail development and maintenance, river protection planning, runoff management, snowmobile enforcement patrol, stewardship, and wildlife damage abatement.

For more information about our grant programs related to these and other activities and projects, visit the Bureau of Community Financial Assistance grants page at:

http://www.dnr.wi.gov/org/caer/cfa/ Grants/index.html.